

**FRENCHMAN BAY CLAM COMMITTEE PROGRESS
REPORT TO ELLSWORTH, FRANKLIN, HANCOCK, LAMOINE
SORRENTO, SULLIVAN AND TRENTON
Spring 2012**

So far, 5 of Our 7 Towns have voted in support of Frenchman Bay Shellfish Management Program and have chosen to continue town funding our program which pays our warden and while shellfish stocks recuperate. Hancock and Trenton have yet to Vote.

Following is a brief summary of this past year's Shellfish Program progress.

- We have nearly completed our Second full year under the Frenchman Bay Management Plan and Ordinance. The Plan and Ordinance came into effect 1 July 2010. We see good progress.
- Mussel and Intertidal Mussel Plan: We are in the process of incorporating some control over intertidal dragging in our area in order to grow more shellfish overall, with an emphasis on growing clams. Permits will be issued through applications submitted to Our Shellfish Committee and Joint Municipal Board.
- To date we have sold more than 80 resident commercial licenses, 10 regular non-resident commercial licenses, several junior and senior commercial licenses and over 200 recreational licenses.
- The program is currently running well within budget, but is still in need of town support while we grow out resource and increase license sales. Nearly all the funds we collect go directly to enforcement. We are exploring ways to gain more funding independently. A Fall diner event is planned with Jordan's Snack Bar in Ellsworth. We want to thank Brian and Jane Langley for their support of our program through the dinners they held at The Union River Lobster Pot.
- We are currently in the middle of doing shore cleanup and conservation work throughout the seven participating towns' shoreline. Many pickup truck loads of garbage and debris were removed so far from the shore and properly disposed of. Most resident and non-resident harvesters took part. We still have more than 6 conservation events scheduled. So, everyone still has the opportunity to gain the hours they need toward being issued a Regional Shellfish License.
- For 2012 and 2013, we will schedule half our conservation work for the fall '12 and Spring '03. These events will include shore clean ups, fund raising and clam flat management.
- Conservation Areas: This year we added the Jordan to our Rotation of Conservation areas due to high harvest rates in the past two years and the presence of a large amount of juvenile as compared to harvestable clams.*

JORDAN RIVER Schedule.

THIS YEAR: TRENTON SIDE IS NOW CLOSED UNTIL 12/1

THEN, TRENTON SIDE OPEN 12/1 – 6/30, CLOSED 7/1 – 11/30

LAMOINE SIDE OPEN 7/1 – 11/30, CLOSED 12/1 – 6/30

Jordan River Rotation schedule will be the same as Raccoon Cove, Lamoine and coincides with the opening of the Winter digging area of the Taunton River, Hancock to best spread out harvest pressure and insure a sustainable resource.

RACCOON COVE: NORTH/ MARLBORO SIDE OPEN 12/1 - 6/30, CLOSED 7/1 – 11/30

SOUTH/MEADOW POINT SIDE OPEN 7/1 – 11/30, CLOSED 12/1 – 6/30

Conservation Areas as of Spring 2012 : THE "GONK", PARTRIDGE COVE AND GOOSE COVE ARE NOW OPEN * HOG BAY OPENS 7/23 2012 * HANKS/FOX FARM OPENS 8/1 2012 * TAUNTON RIVER WINTER DIGGING AREA IS NOW CLOSED, OPEN 12/1 * TREASURE ISLAND/INGALLS ISLAND WINTER DIGGING AREAS ARE CLOSED 5/1 – 9/30, OPEN 10/1 – 4/30,

- It will take time to rebuild our stocks in these seven towns. Please be patient.

We thank all the Seven Towns and residents for the support you've given The Frenchman Bay Shellfish Management Program.

Joe Porada
Chair and Town of Hancock Representative
Frenchman Bay Shellfish Committee

* Excluding State Closures, All Frenchman Bay Conservation areas are open to Recreational harvest.